

HB 1213 -- AMATEUR UNARMED COMBAT COMPETITIONS

SPONSOR: English

This bill establishes provisions regulating amateur unarmed combat competitions. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Defines "unarmed combat" as any amateur kickboxing match in which the competitors are not wearing protective gear. Unarmed combat does not include boxing, wrestling, karate, mixed martial arts, tough man competitions, or any events where compensation or commercial benefit arises from the competition;
- (2) Authorizes the Division of Professional Registration within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration to issue a license to an amateur unarmed combat sanctioning body if it meets certain minimum criteria as specified in the bill;
- (3) Requires an applicant for licensure as an amateur unarmed combat sanctioning body to provide the division with its proposed policies, rules, and regulations for providing oversight of an event including fees for providing oversight, criteria for assigning officials, information regarding required training for officials, a procedure for providing adequate security, a procedure for the administration of drug screenings, length and number of rounds, mandatory rest periods, scoring system, competitor identification cards, and sanctioning of competitors and promoters;
- (4) Requires a promoter of an event to have at least one fully staffed and equipped advanced life support ambulance on site during each event and to ensure that the proposed venue where the event is being held is in a reasonable proximity of a hospital with a full-time emergency department and treatment facilities;
- (5) Requires a promoter to carry medical benefit coverage of at least \$10,000 and accidental death benefit coverage of at least \$10,000 for each participating amateur unarmed combat competitor and to submit proof to the sanctioning body;
- (6) Authorizes the division to consider certain factors such as national recognition and experience in overseeing an event when determining whether to approve a sanctioning body;
- (7) Requires a promoter to provide the sanctioning body with the final proposed fight card, including all current medical information for each competitor by the deadline established by the sanctioning body;

(8) Prohibits a competitor from participating in an event if he or she has a prohibited drug in his or her possession or control and requires a competitor to submit to a drug test upon request of the sanctioning body;

(9) Establishes specifications for the competition area and the protective equipment and attire to be worn by a competitor; and

(10) Specifies the types of strikes which can be made during a competition, what techniques are considered illegal, and which medical tests are required.